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**From:** Acevedo, Janie  
**Sent:** Thur 8/13/2015 2:00:42 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Gold Mine Spill, News Digest, Thursday, Aug 13  
[GKM Digest 081315.pdf](#)

**1 — 'I had nothing else to do but cry': Farmers mourn toxic river plume while EPA copes with fallout, Washington Post, 8/12/2015**

<http://wapo.st/1UESpCp>

The warning came last Thursday: A vast, poisonous plume of mine waste had been accidentally released into a Colorado creek, and it was now streaming inexorably toward the San Juan river.

**2 — Tribe warns residents not to use EPA forms after spill, USA Today, 8/13/2015**

<http://usat.ly/1hzy8jf>

Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye has warned tribal residents to avoid using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's form for claims of damage or injury as a result of the Gold King Mine spill.

**3 — EPA chief: Colorado river hit by mine waste back to pre-spill quality, Reuters,**

**8/12/2015**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/13/us-usa-colorado-spill-idUSKCN0QH2KN20150813>

The water quality of a southwestern Colorado river rendered bright orange by toxic waste spewed from an abandoned gold mine one week ago has returned to pre-spill levels, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency chief said on Wednesday.

**4 — Mine waste has fouled the Animas River before, USA Today, 8/13/2015**

<http://usat.ly/1h5IpUr>

In 1978, after a mine shaft beneath a high-altitude lake north of Silverton, Colo., collapsed releasing millions of gallons of sediment-laden water that found its way into the Animas River, neither federal nor state officials in Colorado notified New Mexico of the incident.

**5 — After Colorado Waste Spill, E.P.A. Halts Field Investigations, The New York Times, 8/12/2015**

<http://nyti.ms/1EoQrgb>

After a contractor for the Environmental Protection Agency accidentally caused a mine to burst during a field investigation — releasing more than three million gallons of toxic waste — the agency's top official said Wednesday that she had halted all similar investigations until further notice.

**6 — Animas River spill leaves Colorado, neighbors weighing EPA lawsuit, Denver Post, 8/12/2015**

[http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_28626632/animas-river-lawsuit-against-epa-table-colorado-ag](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28626632/animas-river-lawsuit-against-epa-table-colorado-ag)

The attorneys general of Colorado, New Mexico and Utah said Wednesday that a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency is an option in the wake of a massive mine wastewater spill caused by the agency.

**7 — EPA Contractor Involved in Colorado Spill Identified as Environmental Restoration, Wall Street Journal, 8/12/2015**

<http://on.wsj.com/1HIvFIu>

Missouri-based Environmental Restoration LLC was the contractor whose work caused a mine spill in Colorado that released an estimated 3 million gallons of toxic sludge into a major river system, according to an Environmental Protection Agency official and government documents reviewed by The Wall Street Journal.

**8 — EPA officials promise analysis of river contamination today, Albuquerque Journal, 8/12/2015**

<http://www.abqjournal.com/627152/news-around-the-region/epa-officials-promise-analysis-of-river-contamination-today.html>

EPA officials offered little new information Tuesday afternoon on pollution levels in the Animas River after agency workers accidentally released an estimated 3 million gallons of mine wastewater contaminated with heavy metals into the river a week ago.

**9 — Utah AG hints at legal action over mine spill, Salt Lake Tribune, 8/12/2015**

<http://www.sltrib.com/news/2831896-155/with-hints-of-mine-sludges-arrival>

With the apparent arrival of an acidic mine waste plume in the San Juan River south of Bluff, Utah politicians kicked into gear Wednesday, with the governor declaring a state of emergency and the state's attorney general hinting at legal action.

**10 — Experts See Long-Term Risks From Colorado Mine Spill, AP, 8/12/2015**

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/navajo-nation-feels-brunt-colorado-mine-leak-33029837>

Toxic waste that gushed from a Colorado mine and threatened downstream water supplies in at least three states will continue to be dangerous when contaminated sediment gets stirred up from the river bottom, authorities said Wednesday, suggesting there is no easy fix to what could be a long-term public health risk.

**11 — Colo. state health dept. says Animas water OK to treat for drinking, Denver Post, 8/12/2015**

[http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_28629387/colo-state-health-dept-says-animas-water-ok](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28629387/colo-state-health-dept-says-animas-water-ok)

The state health department has told Durango officials that they can once again draw in water from the Animas River for drinking water treatment facilities.

## **12 — Attorney General Reyes Issues Statement Following Briefings with Colorado & New Mexico Attorneys General on Gold King Mine Spill, Reuters, 8/12/2015**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/13/epa-gold-king-mine-spill-idUSnBw126429a+100+BSW20150813>

Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes today joined Colorado Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman and New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas in Durango, Colo., to share information and discuss the immediate and possible long term impacts of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Gold King Mine spill with concerned citizens.

## **13 — States Affected By The Gold King Mine Spill Pressure EPA On, Colorado Public Radio, 8/13/2015**

<http://www.cpr.org/news/story/states-affected-gold-king-mine-spill-pressure-epa-cleanup>

Nearly 3 million gallons of contaminated wastewater from Colorado's Gold King mine has made its way into the Animas River since an EPA mistake last week. The wastewater began spilling last Wednesday when an EPA-supervised cleanup crew accidentally breached a debris dam that was flowing at 550 gallons per minute.

## **14 — By the numbers: The massive toll of the Animas River spill, CNN, 8/13/2015**

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/13/us/animas-river-spill-by-the-numbers/>

The environmental crew had one job: pump out and treat contaminated water at the Gold King Mine in southern Colorado.

## **15 — Long-Lasting Effect: 'No Easy Fix' to Rid Colorado Creek of Heavy Metal, AP, 8/13/2015**

<http://www.vnews.com/news/nation/world/18156893-95/long-lasting-effect>

The toxic waste gushing from a Colorado mine and threatening downstream water supplies in at least three states will continue to be dangerous whenever contaminated sediments get stirred up from the river bottom, authorities said Wednesday, suggesting that there's no easy fix to what could be a long-term calamity.

**16 — EPA Contractor Behind CO Mine Spill Got \$381 Million From Taxpayers, Daily Caller, 8/13/2015**

<http://dailycaller.com/2015/08/12/epa-contractor-behind-co-mine-spill-got-381-million-from-taxpayer/>

The EPA may have been trying to hide the identity of the contracting company responsible for causing a major wastewater spill in southern Colorado, but the Wall Street Journal has revealed the company's identity.

**17 — Congressional Committee Asks For Investigation Into Animas River Contamination, CBS Denver, 8/13/2015**

<http://denver.cbslocal.com/2015/08/12/congressional-committee-asks-for-investigation-into-animas-river-contamination/>

A congressional committee has asked the Environmental Protection Agency Office of the Inspector General to investigate the cause of the wastewater spill into the Animas River and the EPA response.

**18 — Hickenlooper drinks Animas River water to make a point, Durango Herald, 8/13/2015**

<http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20150812/NEWS01/150819894/Hickenlooper-drinks-Animas-River-water-to-make-a-point->

Gov. John Hickenlooper on Tuesday drank a hearty gulp of the Animas River in an effort to highlight that the river has returned to pre-contamination conditions.

**Opinions/editorials**

**19 — What the Gold Mine Disaster Tells Us (editorial), The New York Times, 8/13/15**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/13/opinion/what-the-gold-mine-disaster-tells-us.html>

The General Mining Law of 1872 is among the last surviving statutes of the boisterous era of westward expansion. Signed by Ulysses S. Grant, it establishes the basic rules for mining hard-rock minerals like gold, copper and uranium on public lands.

**20 — Clearing up questions on river spill (opinion), Albuquerque Journal, 8/13/15**

<http://www.abqjournal.com/627504/opinion/clearing-up-questions-on-river-spill.html>

Like many New Mexicans, my family and I have been made heartsick by the horrendous spill of mine waste into the Animas River. Like many people, we feel deep connections to the places that have now been polluted.

**21 — Now it's EPA that's polluting and stalling: Opiniononline, USA Today, 8/12/15**

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2015/08/12/epa-crisis-polluting-stalling-opiniononline/31566319/>

What others are saying about the toxic mine spill in Colorado.

**22 — Mine spill a costly, needed wakeup call (editorial), Arizona Daily Sun, 8/13/15**

<http://bit.ly/1DMBSby>

Mention “Superfund site” in some towns, and the locals will ask you to lower your voice. The name itself, much less what’s in it, can be toxic to tourism and property values. Many turn down the designation and the federal cleanup funds that come with it, hoping the site won’t cause problems too big to be fixed locally – and quietly.

River, which was stained an unnatural orange. The Environmental Protection Agency accidentally released millions of gallons of pollutants into the water last week, turning the typically blue water to the color of mustard.